

A Catalyst for Action: The Doyle Conservation Center



EDITOR: E. KILGUS

The Trustees is creating a conservation and stewardship center in Leominster that will enhance the power of the conservation community.

The result will be more places like Slocum's River Reserve (above), which was saved by a partnership of The Trustees, Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, state agencies, the Town of Dartmouth, and conservationists like you.

Thanks to a generous five-million dollar gift from an anonymous supporter of The Trustees, work has begun on a state-of-the-art land conservation facility at the Doyle Reservation in Leominster. When it is finished in the fall of 2003, the Doyle Conservation Center will house The Trustees' mission-centered departments and provide innovative training and a wide range of services to the state's conservation community.

"One of our loyal supporters, a visionary conservationist, came to us with a desire to help advance conservation efforts in Massachusetts," says Executive Director Andy Kendall. "Having talked with the conservation community, we concluded that a centralized facility offering educational programs, conferences, informal meetings, and shared resources could act as a catalyst for the conservation community and help take land protection to the next level," said Andy.

As Andy explains, acquiring properties has become increasingly complex, as have the challenges of protecting scenic, ecologic, and historic resources while providing public access. At the same time, organizations that manage open space need exposure

The Center's much-needed training and conference facilities will provide a place where conservationists—professionals and volunteers—can find answers, advice, and training.

to the highest quality stewardship practices. The synergy generated by a centralized conservation facility will help meet these challenges.

The first phase of creating the Doyle Conservation Center was completed in late February, when staff for ecology and planning, geographic information systems, and land conservation moved to temporary offices in the Driscoll House at the Doyle Reservation.

"Gathering these departments under one roof is a huge asset," says Lisa Vernegaard, Director of Planning and Ecology and project manager for the Center. "Now when we start to design a management plan for a reservation or discuss interpretive programs, many of the experts and resources will be in one room. We can already feel the synergy," she said.

During the second phase, a 13,600-square-foot facility will be built next to the existing Central Regional office. In addition to providing office space for The Trustees, the Center's much-needed training and conference facilities will provide a place where professionals and volunteers from land trusts, watershed associations, and other conservation organizations can go to find answers, advice, and training.

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KENDALL'S CORNER

Conservation and the Virtuous Cycle

If you live in Massachusetts and enjoy the outdoors, April is an exciting month. Though the temperature may plummet or rise 20 degrees from one day to the next, the threat of a belated snowstorm has all but vanished and daylight savings means time for planting seeds, riding bikes, and walks along the beach after work. The Trustees' properties come to life, as crocuses begin to bloom and the shutters on historic houses are thrown open to the warm spring sun. Poised between the unrelenting cold of deep winter and the drowsy heat of high summer, April in Massachusetts truly makes us appreciate the cycle of seasons.

As conservationists, our work is cyclical as well. It begins with land conservation—protecting exceptional properties across the state. The best stewardship practices follow, preserving the scenery, ecology, and history of the property and ensuring a rewarding experience for our visitors. Inspired by our meadows and mountains, beaches, and historic houses, these visitors seek ways to actively protect and care for special places. As members, volunteers, and donors, they lend their energy to our efforts, enabling us to save more properties and increase our stewardship at existing properties.

Injecting energy into any part of this cycle of conservation leads to better results throughout. Improving stewardship practices at a property enhances the visitor's experience, which in turn inspires a deeper conservation ethic. Increasing the amount of protected property increases the opportunities to help visitors experience the natural and cultural scenery of Massachusetts.

Economists call such a cyclical system a "virtuous cycle." It's the opposite of a viscous cycle, where failure begets failure and the system spirals ever downward. In the virtuous cycle of conservation, success at one point in the cycle fuels success in another; fueled by synergy, the entire process spirals ever higher. In this manner, the race for space can be won and the preservation of the Massachusetts landscape assured.

Our goal at The Trustees is to nurture this virtuous cycle of conservation, and the following pages are full of examples. The Doyle Conservation Center will be the physical embodiment of this cycle, providing a place for conservationists from across the Commonwealth to share ideas, advice, and inspiration. The Center will fuel stewardship efforts like those at World's End and Rocky Woods, where dedicated volunteers helped us create plans to preserve scenic resources and ensure a quality visitor experience for all.

On a grand scale, work on the 13,600-acre Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve will protect critical resources and bring an outdoor experience and education to thousands of children from Fall River, helping to create the next generation of conservationists. On a more human scale, your membership dollars are helping to protect nesting shorebirds at Crane Beach and propagate historic trees at the Stevens-Coolidge Place.

You can add your energy to the cycle of conservation at any time and at any point. In the enclosed Calendar of Events, you'll find opportunities to explore ponds on Martha's Vineyard, learn about First Period houses, and build trails. With your help, we can continue the upward spiral of conservation efforts in Massachusetts.

Andy Kendall
Executive Director

Founded in 1891, The Trustees of Reservations is a member-supported nonprofit conservation organization that preserves, for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts and works to protect special places across the state. Today, The Trustees owns, manages, and interprets 91 reservations totaling over 22,500 acres of land, and protects more than 13,300 acres through the use of conservation restrictions on over 200 parcels of private land. The Trustees of Reservations is not an agency of state government. We rely for support entirely upon membership dues, contributions, grants, reservation receipts, special events, and endowments.

For information about becoming a member or to request a change of address, please contact the Membership Office at 978/921-1944, email us at membership@ttor.org, or visit our website at www.thetrustees.org.

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We invite your articles, photographs, comments, and suggestions.

Please send them to:

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Doyle Conservation Center

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Once the Center is completed, Trustees staff will relocate there from their temporary offices in the Driscoll House, which will then provide potential office space for some of The Trustees' partner organizations. At that time, the Center will start to offer educational programs that teach a range of vital conservation skills, from implementing the best stewardship practices to mastering the intricacies of conservation restrictions. The Trustees is developing these programs based on the results of a recent needs assessment of the land conservation community. Instructional staff will be drawn primarily from The Trustees and its partners.

To preserve the character of the Doyle Reservation and surrounding property, which have long been a rural oasis amidst the residential setting of the greater Leominster-Fitchburg area, The Trustees will minimize the impact of the new building. Architectural plans call for the Center to have a strong connection to the surrounding landscape, and The Trustees will apply high standards for "green construction," employing features such as passive heating and cooling, a gray water system, and composting toilets.

During the third phase, an additional 100 acres will be added to the Doyle Reservation, which The Trustees will continue to manage for the enjoyment of the public. And though it is being developed to house and train conservation professionals and volunteers, the Doyle Conservation Center will be an important resource for the greater Fitchburg/Lowell region. The Center and its educational

programs will be designed to accommodate school groups, enabling The Trustees to work with local communities on educating the next generation of conservationists.

While the need for the Doyle Conservation Center comes from the accelerated pace of development in the state, the setting for the new facility was the gift of a long-time Trustees supporter. For more than half a century, Miss Louise Doyle has been the steward of her family's 150-acre estate. In 1981, she brought The Trustees to Leominster by establishing the initial Doyle Reservation, which serves as a home for the Central Regional Office. ■

To learn more about the Doyle Conservation Center, contact Lisa Vernegaard at 978/537-4458 ext. 306 (lvernegaard@ttor.org).

DOYLE CONSERVATION CENTER, LEOMINSTER



Preliminary model showing the north face of the Doyle Conservation Center.




Committee members George Mathey and Philip Laird (L-R) review a model of the Doyle Conservation Center with Executive Director Andy Kendall and architects David Perry and David Schatzel.

My Dad loved every stick and stone in Leominster. He would have been thrilled that The Trustees will preserve this beautiful property forever for people to enjoy. The huge positive impact the Doyle Conservation Center will have on the land conservation movement throughout Massachusetts and New England would also have pleased him.

LOUISE
B.W. Doyle's daughter

©TTOR / J. YOUNGER





From Assonet Ledge in the state forest, views of the bioreserve spread out before you.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve Moves Forward

After 18 months of planning and negotiations, the 13,600-acre Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve is taking final form. In January, the state completed its \$12.1 million acquisition of 3,300 acres of the Acushnet Saw Mills property. This spring, the planning team will release a draft management plan for public comment, and the legislation and conservation restriction completing the deal between the state and Fall River should be approved. The final transaction will come in August, when The Trustees purchases Copicut Woods, its 500-acre parcel, for \$2 million. ★

The Trustees has taken a leadership role in the planning process, in part by commissioning research on the land that will become our Copicut Woods reservation. Consulting ecologists Bob Deegan, Brian Reid, and Mark Mello conducted studies of vernal pools, breeding birds, and macroinvertebrates and discovered such special features as plentiful raptors and a significant example of the locally rare scarlet oak community. Cultural historian Electa Tritsch produced a fascinating history of ownership and land use that explains why this large forest is not quite the "accidental wilderness" some had thought it to be. Their research is informing the management plan and The Trustees' pilot education programs, which aim to engage urban youth in activities that foster environmental awareness and promote stewardship of the bioreserve.

The Trustees must raise \$4 million to purchase Copicut Woods, endow the property, and support start-up activities to open the reservation and launch the education programs. To meet a generous \$2 million challenge grant, we must raise \$500,000 by July 31 to secure the property. In addition, we seek \$250,000 to underwrite an education coordinator and the initial programs. ■

For more information or to support the bioreserve, please contact Debbi Edelstein, Bioreserve Project Manager, 508/679-2115 (dedelstein@ttor.org), or Kate Bateman, Director of Eastern Conservation Campaigns, 781/821-9041 (kbateman@ttor.org).

ADVOCACY UPDATE ACTION ALERT!

Environmental Bond Bill Needs Your Support

The Coalition for the Environmental Bond—a diverse group of organizations including The Trustees—is working to obtain renewed bond authorization for various state environmental and historic preservation programs in "An Act Providing for Capital Facility Improvements and Repairs for the Commonwealth" (the Bond Bill). If the Bond Bill fails to pass by July 31, 2002, state support for protection of open space and historic preservation will be in serious jeopardy.

The bill provides:

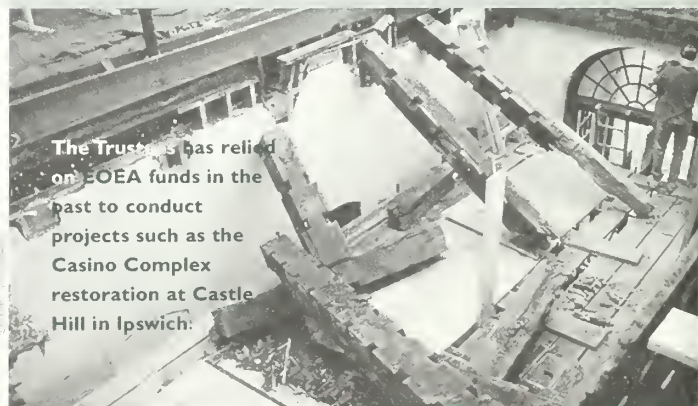
\$750 million in bond authorization over the next five years for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and its open space-related agencies: Fisheries and Wildlife, Metropolitan District Commission, Environmental Management, and Food and Agriculture.

\$10 million for the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF), which in the past has provided substantial grant funding for such Trustees projects as the Casino Complex restoration at Castle Hill in Ipswich.

Environmental and historic preservation programs will be seriously compromised without the passage of the Bond Bill. The Agricultural Preservation Restriction program has exhausted its present authorization, as has the Self-Help Program, which funds many municipal acquisitions. As of this writing, the House Ways and Means Committee is considering an environmental bond authorization of \$625 million, while the House Committee on Long-Term Debt is considering action on the \$10 million MPPF.

Please contact your state representative immediately, by letter, phone call, or personal visit, and urge active support for moving these two Bond Bill sections out of committee and for passage by the House and Senate. Please let us know when you contact your representative, so that we can keep score on this effort. Send a copy of your letter to Peg Wheeler, Doyle Conservation Center, 157 Lindell Avenue, Leominster, MA 01453-5456 (mwheeler@ttor.org).

To read the text of the Bond Bill (H41213, Secs. 2C & 2F), and for information about individual legislators, visit www.state.ma.us/legis/legis.htm



The Trustees has relied on EOEA funds in the past to conduct projects such as the Casino Complex restoration at Castle Hill in Ipswich.

STEWARDSHIP

New Management Plan Unveiled for World's End

More than 30 years have passed since The Trustees and local community members saved World's End in Hingham from development. To ensure that the property continues to offer visitors a scenic respite from the surrounding cityscape, The Trustees recently unveiled a new management plan for World's End at a public meeting in Hingham.

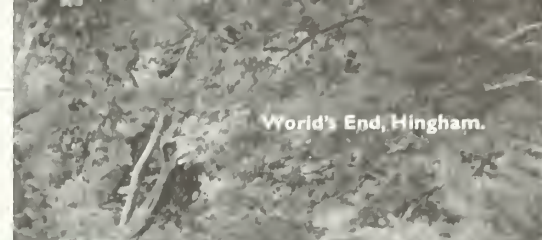
Just over a year in the making, the management plan is based on extensive research, including visitor surveys, species monitoring, and historical research. To no one's surprise, the committee identified the unique look and feel of World's End as the reservation's most important resource to preserve.

"The goal of the management plan is to protect World's End in substantially its present form for the enjoyment of current and future generations," said Cohasset resident and Planning Team Chair Nick Noon. "It's amazing how much dedicated work will be required from Trustees staff with the support of local volunteers to accomplish such a straightforward objective. It has been a real pleasure to work with the Planning Team."

Natural features, including the regionally rare mature oak-hickory forest and the 100 acres of grassland (see sidebar) will be preserved, as will historic features, such as Frederick Law Olmsted's tree-lined carriage paths, old field boundaries, and a colonial-era earthen and stone dam. A variety of recreational activities will be accommodated, and ongoing monitoring will evaluate the impact of visitors and activities on the resources.

To help visitors learn about World's End, a three-year education and interpretation programming plan and the construction of a wildlife viewing station that interprets the ecology of Damde Meadows are planned. An interpretive display that describes and explains current management activities will be created as well. ■

To learn more about the World's End management plan, contact Lisa Vernegaard at 978/537-4458 x306 (lvernegaard@ttor.org).



GRASSLANDS MANAGEMENT

Grasslands at World's End support rare species, grassland birds, and an unusual diversity of plant life. To counter threats (including invasive species and the spread of woody plants), a task force will consider a variety of management tools (mowing, grazing, herbicides, and fire), and develop a grasslands management plan that will protect this rare mosaic of habitats.

Rocky Woods Initiates Green Dogs Program

In an innovative effort to balance activities at Rocky Woods in Medfield, The Trustees is looking to the dog walking community for help. A year ago, a moratorium on dog walking was instituted as part of a major landscape restoration project (see *Regional Roundup*, page 9). Now, under a proposed one-year pilot program called "Green Dogs-Sharing the Trail," dog walking will return in modified form starting April 20, 2002.

"As use of open space intensifies in population centers, interactions among various user groups has become a challenge at Rocky Woods and public lands nationwide," says Operations Manager Becky Siebens, one of two staff on the eleven-person volunteer and staff task force that framed the program. Task force chair Mike Standley noted, "We're hoping the 'share-the-trail' ethic of the program will set a standard of cooperation among dog walkers and other visitors." (See *Regional Roundup* on page 8 for volunteers who helped.)

Under the new guidelines, dog walkers will register with the Green Dogs program to receive permits for their dogs and information about sharing the trail. Rocky Woods will be separated

into three zones: on-leash, off-leash, and off-limit (including the newly restored Chickering Pond area). The entire reservation will be closed to dog walking on Sunday afternoons. A new property map, new signs, and staff and volunteers will help visitors identify the different zones and generally support the pilot program.

As a benefit of family membership with The Trustees, permits for two dogs will be available (additional permits may be purchased for a fee). Nonmembers will be able to purchase single day permits. Permits will be issued at the Rocky Woods ranger station starting April 20 on weekends and specified weekdays. Special registration times will be held on Saturdays, April 20 & 27 from 8 AM - 1 PM and Sundays, April 21 & 28, from 8 AM - 11 AM. New members can join at a reduced family rate until July 31 as part of the Green Dogs initiative. ■

For more information, contact Becky Siebens (bsiebens@ttor.org, 781/828-5423) or visit www.thetrustees.org (Rocky Woods page).



Sharing the Trail



SPECIAL PIECES

Botany, The Creator, and The Old Manse



Though it's known as the seat of the American Revolution, Concord is also the birthplace of one of the country's first intellectual movements—Transcendentalism. In the 19th century, intellectuals such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Margaret Fuller traded ideas about theology and society. And in their free time, many of them prowled the countryside in search of new plants.

Why the fascination with botany? In addition to being considered a healthy outdoor exercise, botany was regarded as

Amateur botanist Sarah Ripley hoped to find evidence of the Creator in the intricate design of this fern, one of the specimens that will be on display at the Old Manse.

a direct link to the Creator. In the intricate structure of plants, these amateur botanists found evidence of intelligent design. And around Concord, with its mix of rivers, bogs, meadows, and calcareous cliffs, they found a wealth of botanical specimens.

Beginning this spring, The Old Manse in Concord will display a rare selection of more than 150 botanical specimens from the

collection of Sarah Alden Bradford Ripley, who lived at The Old Manse from 1845 to 1867. The labels accompanying the specimens may have been hand-printed by Dr. Asa Gray, one of the preeminent early botanists in the United States and a friend and mentor to Sarah Ripley. The exhibit is made possible by a grant from the Garden Club of Concord.

Although Thoreau was probably the most famous Concord botanist, contemporaries considered Sarah Ripley to be the region's best. A descendant of Governor William Bradford and a member of Concord literary circles, Sarah Ripley was a teacher, a linguist, and a botanist who tutored numerous Harvard students over the years. Between 1825 and 1865, she and her brother, George Partridge Bradford collected native specimens from across eastern Massachusetts and New Hampshire. ■

The Old Manse is open from Patriot's Day through October 31, Monday – Saturday 10AM-5PM and Sunday 12 NOON-5 PM. Members admitted free. Admission charged for nonmembers. Call 978/369-3909 for information or visit www.thetrustees.org.



Wire fence "exclosures" such as this have typically protected shorebird nests at Crane Beach. This spring, coyotes will face a new obstacle if they try to prey on piping plover and least tern eggs.

This summer, when you visit Crane Beach in Ipswich for a refreshing walk along the shoreline, take a moment to look beyond the beautiful scenery. Crane Beach is the site of a number of important ecological initiatives, all aided by your membership dollars.

Historically, the beach's shoreline has been a productive nesting ground for piping plovers and least terns. But two years ago, coyotes began preying upon eggs within the

ECOLOGY & MEMBERSHIP

Behind the Scenes at Crane Beach: Your Membership Dollars at Work



nesting tern colonies, attracted by the tightly clustered food source. This summer, Trustees staff will enclose the largest tern colony of nests behind a protective electrified mesh nearly one mile long. Similar to fencing used on farms, the electric fence will pose no danger to humans or nesting birds but should keep coyotes at bay. The fencing—turned off during the day—is located just south of the boardwalk.

A second ecological initiative at Crane Beach involves a joint shorebird study with Manomet Observatory for Conservation Sciences. As part of a pilot program, Trustees staff and volunteers will carefully observe the interaction of migratory shorebirds with humans along the shoreline.

"Examining how our migrants respond to different human activities will help guide

beach management so that we can continue to provide both excellent habitat for shorebirds and exceptional recreational opportunities for the visiting public," says Northeast Regional Ecologist Franz Ingelfinger. Education is probably our most effective management tool. Alerting people about how to alter their behavior to avoid needlessly spooking birds will allow shorebirds to feed more efficiently," he said. ■

Trustees ecologists and staff offer interpretive tours throughout the year, so you can experience the ecology of Crane Beach first hand. Check out the Calendar of Events for summer tours, including shorebird walks, dune ecology, and more. Call 978/356-4351 for more information or visit www.thetrustees.org.

LAND CONSERVATION

News From Around the State

ROCK HOUSE RESERVATION, WEST BROOKFIELD

In February, The Trustees added two parcels totalling 57 acres to Rock House Reservation in West Brookfield following the conclusion of a successful \$110,000 fundraising campaign. The rolling terrain, with its oak forest, stream, and many rock outcroppings, provides valuable buffer space and enhances the ecological value of the reservation and adjacent protected lands. With the addition of these two parcels, more than a mile of scenic frontage on the north side of Route 9 is now protected by The Trustees or the Town of West Brookfield. Our greatest thanks to the many donors who made this possible, and to the tireless work of our local fundraising committee!

CHEVALIER PROPERTY, GREAT BARRINGTON

When this 112-acre farm property at the foot of Monument Mountain came on the market, The Trustees and our neighbors at Monument Mountain High School feared the worst: a multiple-lot subdivision that would scar a highly visible landscape and hem in the school. Instead, we teamed together, and with the help of the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), produced a result with far greater public value. In October, The Trustees' subsidiary, the Massachusetts Land Conservation Trust, purchased the entire property for \$885,000, then immediately resold it in three parcels. Seventy-eight acres, including extensive wetlands along Konkapot Brook, went to DFW; the remainder was sold to the School District and its nonprofit affiliate for future school use, with restrictions protecting the Route 7 frontage across from Monument Mountain and portions of the field next to the DFW parcel. ■

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY

ROOT PROPERTY, GREAT BARRINGTON

Stephen Root has worked his farm and orchard at the foot of Monument Mountain since the 1950s. He was one of the heroes of the 1985 campaign to prevent a 210-unit condo development on the western flank of the mountain when he turned down a very substantial developer's offer, choosing instead to sell 69 acres to The Trustees for \$10,000. Mr. Root and The Trustees have now developed a conservation plan for his 50 remaining acres, including a bargain sale of conservation restrictions to the Town of Great Barrington and a gift to The Trustees of a remainder interest in 34 acres, which will be added to Monument Mountain after his lifetime. The Town, with The Trustees' help, has won a state Self-Help grant to offset 60% of the purchase price, but The Trustees needs to raise \$80,000 to provide the local match and associated costs. ■

For more information, contact Regional Director Steve McMahon at 413/298-3239 (smcmahon@ttor.org).

© J. HEATH



Rock House Reservation
West Brookfield

conservation count

LAND OWNED	91 reservations	ACREAGE PROTECTED
		22,545
LAND UNDER CR	202 parcels	13,314
ASSISTS	69 projects	10,243
(as of 3/15/02)		TOTAL 46,102

CONSERVATION BUYER OPPORTUNITY

In the hilltowns west of Greenfield, outside the small village of Heath, lies **Burnt Hill** (left), a productive, 200-acre hilltop blueberry farm with views of three states. The Trustees is working with the owner to ensure that this APR-protected property remains an active farm enjoyed by the public. One possibility is to find a

Burnt Hill

conservation buyer who would work with The Trustees. Potentially available for sale are either a life estate in the 1,600-square-foot contemporary house for \$225,000, or the entire property, with certain restrictions and obligations, for \$495,000. For more details, contact Jennifer Dignazio at 413/587-0716.

NORTHEAST REGION

Regional Ecologist **Wayne Castonguay** has been selected as the new General Manager at Appleton Farms. As one of the prime architects of the Appleton Farms Master Plan, Wayne is uniquely qualified to manage this diverse and highly complex property. Also, the **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** project is up and running at the Farms—the first of the CSA harvest should be ready for shareholders by early spring. Finally, the sheep from the grazing program have helped us out by girdling hundreds of invasive Norway maple trees in the winter paddock along Waldingfield Road.

Efforts are underway at **Old Town Hill in Newbury** to discourage the use of off-road vehicles on the property. A new gate was installed, the borders of the reservation were clearly marked, and a letter was mailed to abutters asking for help. Contact Peter Pinciario at 978/356-4351 (pjpinciario@ttor.org) with information or questions.

An anonymous grant from a generous donor will fund a part-time interpreter position that will offer environmental and cultural interpretive programs for the **Cape Ann** properties.

Volunteers John Schmadeke and Tom Gunn are organizing volunteer work groups that will work with superintendents and ecologists on a regular, independent basis. At **Crane Beach** in Ipswich and on the **Crane Wildlife Refuge's** Choate Island in Essex, volunteers will be responsible for controlling invasive plant species. And at **Long Hill** in Beverly, they'll create a wildflower meadow that will eventually showcase native wildflowers.

GREATER BOSTON

Trustees staff determined the locations of colonies of the endangered long's bulrush

at **Shattuck Reservation, Medfield and Rocky Narrows, Sherborn**. Invasive purple loosestrife and wetland shrubs may pose a threat to some or all of the populations over time. A long-term monitoring plan will be developed to ensure that these populations remain viable into the future.

As part of the landscape plan for **The Old Manse, Concord**, an original 19th-century boathouse has been reconstructed. Most of the original foundation stones were still on the site, and the basic shape of the boathouse was still in evidence. Restoration of the riverbank along the Concord River (which flows past The Old Manse and is part of the State Scenic River System) will follow in the spring. The restoration was principally funded by a grant from the Stratford Foundation. See the Calendar of Events insert for information about the dedication ceremony on June 1 at 1 PM.

Trustees staff met with a local Boy Scout who will work on an extension trail from **Noon Hill to Shattuck Reservation** and another trail for Charles River Peninsula as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Phase I of the **Rocky Woods Restoration**, designed to restore a sense of "civilized wilderness" to this Medfield reservation, is being completed this spring! Join us for refreshments, special walks, and entertainment on Sunday, June 16th, from 1 PM to 4 PM. We've created a pond-side meadow and grassy common areas around Chickering Pond, extended the stone walls, spruced-up the picnicking areas, and added hundreds of new plantings, from trees to understory shrubs.

Rocky Woods Dog Policy Working Group: Mike Standley, *Chair*, Catherine Belden, Stephen Browne, Grayland Cousins, Will Goldthwait, Robin Ostrander, Jenn Shaw, Caroline Standley, Andy Thompson. (See story on page 5.)

SOUTHEAST REGION

An Antioch College student is working on a practicum that involves assessing significant hemlock stands at eight priority reservations throughout the region. He'll be looking for the presence of **hemlock woolly adelgid**, an insect that threatens hemlock in the northeast with widespread mortality. Based on his findings, Trustees ecology staff will decide whether intervention is necessary.

CAPE COD & ISLANDS

Interpretation programs at Trustees properties on Martha's Vineyard were a hit this fall. About 40 people attended the mushroom program and 15 people the geology program at **Menemsha Hills**, while 13 attended the Sunset Stroll at **Long Point Wildlife Refuge**. The winter Conservation Restriction walks have also been popular. Twenty-five people toured the Menemsha Hills Brickyard; 38 people enjoyed the Henry Kloss CR; and the Squibnocket Point walk drew more than 70 participants. For more information on programs and walks, contact Suzan Bellincampi at 508/693-7662 (sbellincampi@ttor.org).

Dick Bellevue announced he will retire from The Trustees on May 31, 2002. Dick has been Refuge Manager at **Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge, Nantucket** since 1979. We wish Dick a very happy retirement!

The Trustees recently released "**The Ecology of Coastal Salt Ponds: A Pilot Study at Long Point Wildlife Refuge.**" The 60-page report (which focuses on Tisbury Great Pond, Long Cove Pond, and Big Homer's Pond) presents residents and landowners with a wide variety of information about these rare habitats, found only along the shores of southern New England and Long Island.

ROUND UP

Call 508/693-7662 for a copy of the report or visit www.thetrustees.org (keyword search "coastal ponds").



CENTRAL REGION

The **Peaked Mountain Committee** discussed the proposed Lower Hampden Road reconstruction and its impact on the Miller Forest Tract of Peaked Mountain, and Committee Chair Leslie Duthie reported on yet another cell tower proposal before the Monson Planning Board. While it's likely to be visible from Peaked Mountain, the proposed 170-foot cell tower would be better than the previous two proposals, whose towers were located very close to the reservation.

The Trustees recently received three grants from the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor (\$10,000), the Town of Sturbridge (\$2,500), and the Sturbridge Historical Society (\$500), to reach the \$30,000 purchase price for the **Crowd Site, Sturbridge**, which once housed graphite mine workers in the 19th century. To raise the additional funds needed to cover acquisition and start-up costs, Trustees staff met recently with local supporters. To learn how you can help, contact Chris Rodstrom at 978/840-4446 (crodstrom@ttor.org).

Trustees staff met with about a dozen people interested in forming a new properties committee for **Quinebaug Woods and Tantiusques**, our reservations in the Sturbridge area. The group included relatives of Ben and Margaret Haller, who donated Quinebaug Woods to The Trustees, and such longtime members and supporters as Ed Hood, historian and archeologist at Old Sturbridge Village. To learn more about the local volunteer properties committee, contact Tim Silva at 978/840-4446 (tsilva@ttor.org).

A successful fundraising campaign allowed The Trustees to purchase an additional 57

acres of land adjacent to **Rock House Reservation, West Brookfield** (see page 7). Join us as we celebrate on Sunday, June 9 from 1pm to 3pm. Hike the new trail and enjoy refreshments afterward. Meet at the reservation entrance on Route 9. Call 978/840-4446 for more information.



WESTERN REGION

Timber frame architect Jack Sobon finished his assessment of the barn at the **William Cullen Bryant Homestead, Cummington**. As was suspected, there is much work to be done to the foundations, frame, and sheathing.

Thanks to a generous donation from Berkshire Bank, a hiking map of historic **Monument Mountain** was recently published. You can order your copy for \$1 from www.thetrustees.org or pick up a copy at the on-site bulletin board.

The Trustees was awarded a \$2,500 Scholar in Residence grant from the Bay State Historical League and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. The grant will fund a research project at the **Colonel John Ashley House, Sheffield**. Information gathered and analyzed by historian Myron Stachiw will improve the interpretation of the house.

Thanks to a grant from the NeilsenBainbridge Company, via the Williamstown Art Conservation Center, the John Singer Sargent drawings of Joseph and Mabel Choate at **Naumkeag in Stockbridge** will be conserved and looking their best by Memorial Day 2002.

Join us at **Mountain Meadow Preserve, Williamstown** to explore the new addition to the Preserve. Meet on Saturday, June 1, at the new parking area on Benedict Road for a two-hour hike. For more information call 413/458-3144.

New Employees

Franz Ingelfinger, Northeast Regional Ecologist



Land of the Commonwealth: A Portrait of the Conserved Landscape of Massachusetts was selected as a winner in the Pictorial category of the Bookbinders

of Boston 45th Annual New England Book Show. You can order a copy of this full-color coffee-table book on www.thetrustees.org or by calling 978/921-1944.

Doyle Conservation Center

Our Ecology and Planning and Geographic Information Systems department, as well as members of our Land Conservation department, have moved to new offices at the Doyle Reservation (see cover story for more information). You can contact them at:

The Trustees of Reservations
Doyle Conservation Center
157 Lindell Avenue
Leominster, MA 01453

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Look for these and other great activities across the state in the new **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** brochure included in this issue of *Special Places*!

Throughout the Summer

NORTH SHORE ISLANDS TOURS

A wonderful opportunity to explore the beauty and tranquility of these off-shore Trustees properties.

Misery Islands Tour - Misery Islands, Salem Sound

Daily passenger service offered by Sun Line Cruises from the pier at Salem Willows Park in Salem. Call 978/741-1900 for a schedule of trips. **Reservations are recommended.** Members: adult \$10, child (under 12) \$7.50. Nonmembers: adult \$12, child (under 12) \$8.

Crane Islands Tour - Crane Wildlife Refuge, Essex

Select Sundays in June, August, and September, 10 AM and 2 PM tours. **Reservations are recommended by calling 978/356-4351.** Members: \$6, child (under 12) \$2. Nonmembers: \$12, child (under 12) \$5.



Misery Islands

Bryant Homestead

Craft Festival

Cummington, Massachusetts

Saturday & Sunday, July 20-21 10AM to 5PM
17TH ANNUAL BRYANT HOMESTEAD CRAFT FESTIVAL
 William Cullen Bryant Homestead, Cummington 413/634-2244

Over 100 juried high-quality crafters; craft demonstrations; bands; children's activities; tea on the veranda; food court; house tours; Victorian clothing fashion show; tours of the Homestead and Rivulet Trail. Something for everyone! All Festival proceeds benefit the Bryant Homestead. Event goes on rain or shine! **Members: \$4. Nonmembers: \$5. Children under 12 FREE.**

Throughout the Summer

NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Through fun and educational tours, The Trustees offers a unique way to experience the natural wonders of Martha's Vineyard. Call for info and reservations 508/627-3599

Natural History Tours | Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge, Chappaquiddick
 Daily: 9 AM and 2 PM (2 1/2 hours)

Lighthouse Tour | Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge, Chappaquiddick
 Daily: 9 AM, 12 NOON and 3 PM (1 1/2 hours)

Wildlife Canoe Tour | Wasque Reservation, Chappaquiddick Daily: 9 AM and 2 PM (2 1/2 hours)

Poucha Pond Self-Guided Discovery Tour
 Wasque Reservation, Chappaquiddick
 Daily: 9 AM through 5 PM (4 or 8 hours)

Wildlife Discovery Tour | Long Point Wildlife Refuge, West Tisbury Daily: 8:30 AM and 1 PM (2 1/2 hours)



Cape Poge Lighthouse

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Mrs. Coolidge's "Grapery"

This spring, when you're enjoying the gardens at the Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover, visit the greenhouse. Built in the late 1920s by preservation architect Joseph Everett Chandler, it was used to grow plants and to shelter temperate and sub-tropical plants such as bay laurel and hibiscus during the cold winter months. But the best feature was Mrs. Coolidge's "grapery"—a corner of the greenhouse where she cultivated grapes. Months before the natural growing season, her guests dined on succulent Black Hamburg grapes (the same variety grown at Hampton Court outside London).

"Like Mrs. Coolidge, we use the greenhouse to store and propagate plants," says Superintendent Bob Murray, who has overseen ongoing restoration of the greenhouse. "Right now, we're growing cuttings from the historic willow trees on the property, so we'll be able to extend the genetic lines of these spectacular specimens," he said.

It's hard to imagine that this was once the site of an odiferous barn, which was relocated downwind of the house as part of an ambitious plan to create the greenhouse and Italianate walled garden in front of it. While the greenhouse is a gardener's delight, an even bigger treat may be in store. The Lyman Estate in Waltham grows the original Black Hamburg grapes that Mrs. Coolidge cultivated, and SPNEA has offered The Trustees a cutting.

"If all goes well, the inside of the greenhouse will again be covered with grape vines," says Bob, "just like in the days of Mrs. Coolidge." ■

Inside this fragrant greenhouse, you'll find rows of bay laurel, hibiscus, and other sub-tropical plants.

The gardens are open year-round, daily, 8AM to sunset. Guided house tours are available on selected days starting Mother's Day weekend. Call 978/682-3580 for information or visit www.thetrustees.org.



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SPECIES PROFILE

SEALS

During the winter, seals will often bask in the sun's warm rays along ledges and shorelines of the East Coast. You're likely to spot these marine mammals at coastal reservations like World's End in Hingham where this one was photographed by Steve Richmond. Harbor seals, harp seals, and gray seals

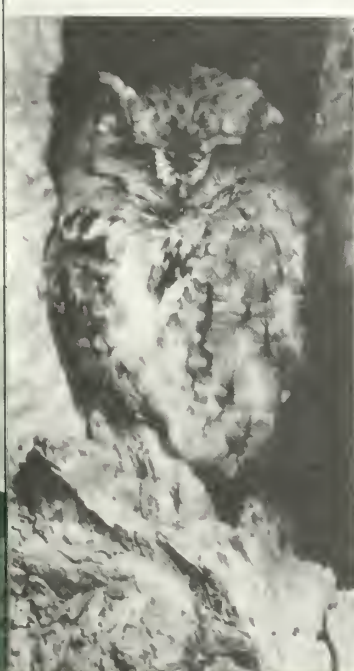
Although harbor seals are generally tolerant of humans, never disturb a seal on the shore.

can all be found along the Massachusetts coastline. Although seals are generally tolerant of humans, never disturb a seal on the shore. Instead, use a camera with zoom lens or binoculars to observe it. If you think the seal is stranded and in need of help, contact the New England Aquarium Rescue hotline at 617/973-5247.

EASTERN SCREECH OWLS

One of the state's most common owls, the eastern screech-owl lives in a variety of habitats. From suburban areas to lakeshores and orchards, these owls are at home at Trustees reservations throughout the state, except in the western highlands. Eastern screech-owls can be identified by their yellow eyes (not visible in this daytime picture by John Schmadke) and ear tufts, although their plumage and small

stature (7-10" long) make them hard to spot. These nocturnal predators feast on small prey such as voles, insects, and amphibians. Their whistling, "whinny" call can often be heard during the spring and summer. For nests, they favor the cavities of trees located along the edges of wood lots, orchards, and even city parks. While it's easiest to spot owls when they are nesting, be careful: eastern screech-owls won't hesitate to defend their nest by swooping down on the heads of trespassing humans. ■



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The Trustees of Reservations
572 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915-1530
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BACKGROUND PHOTO: Monument Mountain, Great Barrington

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the central Massachusetts' landscape. Tully Lake Campground in Royalston offers campers 35 well-spaced, walk-in, tent-only campsites, including 15 waterfront sites and two handicapped accessible sites.

Recreational opportunities abound at the campground. Onsite rangers rent canoes and kayaks by the full-day or half-day for paddling and fishing. A volleyball court and horseshoe pit are free to all campers, a mountain bike trail offers fat-tire adventures, and the newly completed Tully Trail features excellent hiking on a 20-mile loop that incorporates scenic vistas, waterfalls, and rivers. Of course, cooling off with a swim in Tully Lake is a must, and firewood may be purchased onsite for evening cookouts under the stars.

OUT & ABOUT

Tully Lake Campground in Royalston

Camping offers the perfect opportunity to reconnect with family and friends while experiencing the beauty of

Site rental includes a picnic table, fireplace, and cooking grill, and each site is large enough to accommodate two to three tents. Campground facilities include a modern bathhouse with toilets, hot showers, and drinking water. Groups renting 15 sites or more can take advantage of early and late season weekends from April 19 to May 19 and from September 6 to October 15, when the campground is open to large groups only. The campground opens daily to all from May 28 through September 3. Weekend rates are \$17-\$30 per site, with weekday rates at \$12-\$25 per site (depending on campsite location and number of campers). ■



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